

*Interviewer:* –one on film?

*Interviewee:* Well, I don't know everything that's good that comes to people. Like somebody had to suffer for it before it gets to the other side.

*Female 1:* Had \_\_\_\_\_ we have to pay. No idea you're going to give us anything. I have to say our youngest girl here, she works at Kmart.

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm.

*Female 1:* Did you know?

*Interviewer:* No, I didn't know.

*Female 1:* And I've been over there shopping around a little. She got me that. She works at the old Kmart, but we stopped in at the new one a while. And that, man, everything you can \_\_\_\_\_, can already see, but had the talk with her on some things. She started up the new one. She hired the women – I don't know if she hired the men or not, but lots of the women she hired down there. And it began in 17th of August, and they open today.

I haven't seen like a \_\_\_\_\_ like, no, it's a good, big, nice store. It looks–

*Interviewer:* Oh yeah, it is nice there.

*Female 1:* –little from the outside.

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm.

*Female 2:* Well, you made it back.

*Female 1:* Just did.

*Female 2:* Just got here?

*Female 1:* No, got in about 3:00, I reckon to us.

*Female 2:* There's your paper.

*Interviewee:* You get two?

*Female 2:* No, one of the girls over at the hospital always gives me the *Daily Mail* for the day before. So this is yesterday's. Well, where'd it go?

*Female 1:* Come in, I said come in—

*Interviewee:* Come in and get a seat

*Female 2:* No, I'm going to—

*Interviewee:* You and Lattie?

*Female 2:* —get over there and start some supper. I'm going to go to church tonight, so I don't have time.

*Female 1:* Did you see them Atkins boys around there? They teased him and had him barking quite a bit ago.

*Female 2:* Really?

*Female 1:* Yeah.

*Female 2:* Then he'll bite him.

*Female 1:* Well, they —I'm afraid he will, but I had to give mine away last summer on account of them, them Atkins boys.

*Female 2:* [Crosstalk]

*Female 1:* This is the lady from Charleston, investigating Cam.

*Female 2:* Oh really?

*Female 1:* Yeah. About the mines and the strikes and the war.

*Female 2:* Are you going to get in the paper?

*Interviewee:* I don't know.

*Interviewer:* Not by name, but maybe by something he says.

[Laughter]

*Female 1:* They come along, make you say something about the \_\_\_\_\_ place and the photographers live and have some pictures made. I said, "Let's go in and have some." I don't know when I've had a picture made.

*Female 2:* Did Nikki come?

*Female 1:* Yeah, she brought me over and took the whole chair back. She located somebody was going to buy it from me.

*Female 2:* Oh, well, good.

*Female 1:* She said, "Now Daddy wants you to understand if you go first I'm going to take his chair."

*Female 2:* [Laughs] I asked for that first.

*Interviewee:* I said, "No, don't give it to Billie Jo." I said, "Me and Billie Jo will fight that out." I said she'd pay the bill and have it bottomed (3:30), you know?

*Female 2:* Well, I'll pay her for it, 'cause I want that chair.

*Female 1:* She don't might like to give it up. Of course. I've got one in there also. I don't know; I was going to get \_\_\_\_\_. I don't care what the conversation \_\_\_\_\_.

*Female 2:* [Laughs]

*Female 1:* But it's so nice to see the old-fashioned rocker, something like the one John F. liked so well over at the flea market. We went in, we took him \_\_\_\_\_.

*Female 2:* Did you see anything you liked?

*Female 1:* Yeah, there was lots of things, and nice casserole dishes, and chairs, and cedar chests. Oh my, nothing I could buy, though.

*Female 2:* Well.

*Female 1:* One thing be neat, I'd like to have that rocker. It was just \$13.00. But I didn't buy. I bought me a little electric lamp to sit on the head of the bed. That and the shade's tore up.

*Female 2:* Yeah. Well, I didn't want to interrupt anything. I'll go so you can finish telling her \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* Bye-bye.

One thing I meant to ask you is I've been wondering how the word got around when that march started? You know, how did people find out that the march was starting and did people come around to

each little camp and spread the word that way? Or how'd it happen?

*Interviewee:* Well, I think they come out of Cabin Creek, maybe Paint Creek.

*Female 1:* Come here on the trains?

*Interviewee:* No, they camped over there on Main Street. And just kept building it bigger and they got the raid scene. But it was up the river here about five miles, stayed a day or two, and just kept getting bigger and bigger. What's more – more of a nice summer, everyone's getting together, I couldn't tell you as far as I got. But then I lasted about a week from there to Blair Mountain.

*Female 1:* Now the first I knowed of any strikes and carrying on was in Matewan, way up there in Mingo County. They killed up there. Lord have mercy. That's my \_\_\_\_.

*Interviewee:* Well, that was about the same time, you know?

*Female 1:* Yeah, I figured it was all about the same time. That's the first I'd heard of it. My first girly was just two or three months old then.

*Interviewee:* Maybe – I'd say 100 on fire, maybe 1,000, maybe more. I was \_\_\_\_ up; I stayed all night. And we wasn't ready to go yet. Maybe after they run that train up and down here, but I was working at Brisk Creek up here and the whole local is \_\_\_\_\_. We took a wagon and horses and went, stayed up there about a week.

*Interviewer:* How was it that you heard about it happening? Someone come and tell you, or you–

*Interviewee:* No. I attended local up there, you know, and they got word, you know, (7:00) they wanted us all to go, you know. The majority of the plant, and I don't know if all of them went or not. Wasn't a very big mine where I worked at, so we all went.

*Interviewer:* Now as far as you know, were the district officers behind you?

*Interviewee:* Oh yes. We was at this President of District 4, I mean we called it at that time, you know? We was president of the District 17, Sub-District 4 I believe they called it.

*Interviewer:* What about Frank Keeney and Fred Mooney, were they behind you too?

*Interviewee:* Oh yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I heard them speak a few \_\_\_\_\_, you know. I worked with Mooney for whatever elected, secretary and treasurer.

*Interviewer:* Did you really? What did Keeney and Mooney say when they spoke to you earlier at Ellis?

*Interviewee:* Well, he was an awful strong union man, you know, and he wanted everybody to do as much as they could, you know, for the union, you know. One of them did and one of them didn't.

*Interviewer:* Were they behind this marching down to Logan?

*Interviewee:* Oh yeah. You know, we tried Blizzard over it, you know?

*Interviewer:* Oh, I know. I know that Blizzard was. I just wondered about the president of District 17, if he was behind it too. I thought maybe he was dragging his feet a little bit.

*Interviewee:* Oh no. No, he wasn't dragging his feet a bit. You – we didn't see him around very often, but he had runners, you know, to tell him what to do and–

*Female 1:* Trying to get in.

*Interviewee:* –get the grub in there, Cletus, all that stuff. Boy, it was a scary time too. I \_\_\_\_\_ him for that train, my \_\_\_\_\_ I'd say every two hours anyway, you know? And those men on those high-powered rifles, you know? Load on here, 'cause there wasn't much else to do when they were all gone. Of course, I didn't load on for a living for I done – I done went the other way, you know?

*Interviewer:* I see. So that's one way they got people to join up, is just to come by on the trains and load them up.

*Interviewee:* Yeah.

*Female 1:* Now are you planning on making a book of this?

*Interviewer:* No, not a book. A few newspaper stories maybe, but not a book.

*Female 1:* What's your name?

*Interviewer:* Anne Lawrence.

- Female 1:* There was a girl, she'd done, uh, had a lot of write-ups in the paper. She was good, too, but she left. See, we like our \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere.
- Interviewee:* When I was about 12 years old my dad worked for a mine up there in Land's Creek, Then they didn't have no electric in the mines, you know, just cut the coal with a pit and sheered it down along the top and had the screens running, knock the coal on it and it was about four inches. And all went through that screen didn't get enough to \_\_\_\_\_. But then on top he had to have a – a good big car to get 1,000 pounds and that'd fetch you about \$1.00. Two and three and four was actually a good days work for a miner then. All the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Female 1:* Well, they didn't have the lights they had in the mine is what they called sunshine, wasn't it?
- Interviewee:* \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
- Female 1:* Well, then they had–
- Interviewee:* They got sunshine and–
- Female 1:* Carbide next.
- Interviewee:* No, they got sunshine and \_\_\_\_\_ --
- Female 1:* I had two brothers that worked in the mines at Red Jacket that's up there in Mingo County.
- Interviewee:* Then they got carbide lights and finally they got the electric lights.
- Female 1:* Boy, that carbide was a stinking \_\_\_\_\_. But that sunshine, I hear that's from the top of the \_\_\_\_\_. I never saw it; I don't know what it was.
- Interviewee:* Boy, I saw a lot of it. It kind of powered by like Atlantic soap. If you take a knife and whittle it off and set your lamp up with it and there's a wire in the wick went down it. You had to \_\_\_\_\_, 'cause that'd heat that stuff a little melted, you know?
- Female 1:* [Crosstalk]
- Interviewee:* [Crosstalk]

*Interviewer:* You must've worked long hours in the mines, didn't he? Your father?

*Interviewee:* Oh yes. He'd go – well, in the summertime he'd go before daylight to the mine, you know? I stayed with him a week when I was about 12 or 13 years old. I was hauling a little coal with a shovel, you know. I don't like to be but boys like me with a trap, and they had trappers in the mines and haul – hauled it all with you. It wasn't no motor then – like them machines or nothing at all, you know. It was all \_\_\_\_\_. I'd wear the \_\_\_\_\_ out. I played with it. My dad, he decided, you know, and I wanted to stay the week with him.

*Female 1:* [Crosstalk]

*Interviewee:* Well, he wasn't \_\_\_\_\_.

*Female 1:* \_\_\_\_\_ anything.

*Interviewee:* He lived in Whitfield. What'd you have to live? Plumb good man, make \$1.75-\$2.00 a day then in the mines. And if you did work, very steady pay. You had to take most of it to the store. They was paying high, too.

*Female 1:* Well, we had scrip here in Ellis a long time, didn't they?

*Interviewee:* Well, all of them had scrip.

*Female 1:* They did?

*Interviewee:* And some of them I'm here to tell, I never seen it, but lived in the company house about – and most of the time they go to work without any breakfast, the men would, you know? And when they got a car of coal they got – in particular you'd get a dollar scrip, you know, then they'll fix him breakfast and take it to the \_\_\_\_\_. So if I'm driving to the mill, then take that to him, you know? I guess that's half \_\_\_\_\_, you know, now that I hear him talking. Of course it never happened to me, but I wasn't big enough being told then to pick, and I never did when I went to work the mine we had the machines got the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Female 1:* Summer of 1910 my brothers walked over hill, at least two miles, if not more, and worked for Day – for Daylight. And I guess I don't \_\_\_\_\_ I was in \_\_\_\_\_ till '16. I don't know why; they liked it. They liked the first work there at public work.

*Interviewer:* Before that they'd just been – they'd been doing some farming?

*Female 1:* A little farming.

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm. But they did like it working down in the mines?

*Female 1:* Mm-hmm. And my granddaddy on my mother's side had a sawmill and timber saw and he sawed and made crossties for the radial crowd – sold to the radial company. My brothers worked and helped in that.

In a way we lived hard, but we had plenty enough for four people, and lived honest. But now everybody's a grabbing every dollar they can get, just like money's going out of style.

*Interviewer:* Did you always live outside of the camps or did you ever live in one of the camps that the coal companies built?

*Female 1:* No. No. No, we did not want – he worked in the mine – in the beginning in the mines. We married and lived up in that holler to yonder; it's a mile or more from here. And he'd walk out to the road, up yonder was a bridge over the river and get his ride there, ride on the canals. Did you work in the Ridgeview after we come here?

*Interviewee:* Yes, I worked–

*Female 1:* He got hurt in the Ridgeview Mines fall of 1937.

*Interviewee:* No. Yeah, I worked a long time up there.

*Female 1:* And we lived at Blair. And he'd come over there, his mother and dad lived here then. He'd stay with them and work and then come the weekend over there. Then the house got empty. He bought a house and some land up that range.

*Interviewer:* Did you not want to live in the coal camps?

*Female 1:* No, I wouldn't have lived in that if I had to.

*Interviewer:* What was wrong – why did you not like them so much?

*Female 1:* Well, I never was used to them, one thing. I was used to being out in the country and like this, living to myself. That's one thing I was always blessed with, to be off to myself in a way. All people, you know, in coal camps, it was always going on more or less and children leering around. Up here I don't know nothing about it.



*Interviewee:* Well, my parents never did lived in coal camp and yet I worked and lived in \_\_\_\_\_ house.

*Interviewer:* I guess some people have told me that they liked the camps a lot, because it was real friendly. You know, you got to know more people.

*Interviewee:* Well, yeah, they're friendly enough, you know.

*Female 1:* Well back then people wasn't like they are now, stealing and into everything and mean and fighting and wanting more. In this country we're \_\_\_\_\_ here. And break in the store, of course if you ever look at that. It's nothing like when we grew up, him here in Boone County and me in Roane County. We was peaceful and had good neighbors and the saying is every feller helped his brother. Now dog eat dog.

I was just talking to the girls that come along, I said, "What kind of a time and world do you think this will be when the Millennial reign comes?" She said, "What's that?" She used to be a Christian. I said, "When there's a new world." I said, "How are we going to get a start of people again? This is supposed to burn up." I said, "And when you got the start, when the flood come," I said, "God told Noah he had to build the ark and he saved eight souls within that ark, Noah and his wife and the three sons and their wives." And I said, "I wonder about now." But the Bible says there should be a new Heaven and a new Earth where we'll dwell within righteousness. Everything will be good then up here in that new Earth.

But the world's got so evil. My two girls, they both belonged to this Methodist church up here, this Christian church, three or four years, or maybe longer. And they got engaged to get married and they backslid. Cleo married in '50, 1950. And my Mika married in '53. They got good men at that time, were good men, peaceable men. That is yet. But now this one here, her husband is an extra timely. And he \_\_\_\_\_ trouble and \_\_\_\_\_.

Done talking another – it was yesterday, telling about her drinking. I said, "I know a little girl just went and got dry." She had the baby, it was about once it was on the bottle, I don't know how old it was. And I was over there. They lived on Beverly Drive, back on the hill across Quineas the capital line. Ever been to Charleston? They said they was going down the \_\_\_\_\_ east.

*[Audio cuts out for a moment]*

*Interviewer:* Campfires going all the time. And you come back there every evening?

*Interviewee:* Yeah, we come back to get something to eat, you know?

*Interviewer:* Yeah.

*Interviewee:* Whatever we had laying on the ground, you know. And we didn't have no bed. Or I didn't. Or I wasn't \_\_\_\_\_. I don't know if they ever did or not.

*Interviewer:* Did you keep the fires going at night?

*Interviewee:* Oh, no. No. None of us have fire, and lights either.

*Female 1:* Was that in the summer?

*Interviewee:* Yeah, I believe it is.

*Female 1:* Yeah, I think it was back in September.

*Interviewee:* Not always, do you reckon? Not always *[crosstalk]*.

*Female 1:* *[Crosstalk]* I know I *[crosstalk]*.

*Interviewee:* I don't know, it must've been 50 years ago. A whole lot of things happened then. You \_\_\_\_\_.

*Interviewer:* But so you just slept out in the woods?

*Interviewee:* Yeah.

*Interviewer:* Did you sleep out in groups of people, or just pretty much by yourself?

*Interviewee:* Yeah. Yeah. It'd be groups of people. And we all wouldn't lie down. It would be one or two of them around, you know, see what was going on, if anything wasn't just right. It was all like that.

*Interviewer:* I was wondering if when you slept out like that if you talked with each other about what was going on and kind of exchanged news and talked about the union.

*Interviewee:* Oh, we did if we seen anybody. Of course, a bunch of \_\_\_\_\_ what one knows they all know, you know, but I knew somebody passed by or if you see them going one way or the other, why you get what you could from the men, you know?

*Interviewer:* Did you do any singing?

*Interviewee:* Oh, I've been – I didn't. I don't not sing no ways, no. I don't remember many of it. One evening, just about dark, here come a naked long, slim nigger running hard as he could run. He says, "I've been up on that point there ever since this morning. They went to shooting at us, come down that little rock there." You see, he was running by the rock and seventeen men piled in on top of him and he had to stay in the dark, so he couldn't see where to shoot at, you know. That was his telling of it.

But I know he – he was a scared nigger; I know that.

*Interviewer:* Sounds like he was lucky.

*Interviewee:* Oh, he was.

*Interviewer:* There are guys who just come along and tell you their stories and then move on?

*Interviewee:* Yes, they wasn't – oh, they wasn't – they fired at them in the woods, back on the hill. The whole river full of men; I don't know where all they come from. The Kanawha River and Paint Creek and Cabin Creek, and I know there were a lot of people in that. No, you're taking \_\_\_\_\_ on up the \_\_\_\_\_; that's a long ways. You know, I mean about Jeffery on up. You know, that river was just full of men. Now Jeffery was where they dropped that bomb, you know?

*Interviewer:* You weren't down on Beech Creek, were you, when Captain Brockus and his men went up there?

*Interviewee:* No, I was up there on – next to Blair there. Captain Brockus, he was with the army, wasn't he?

*Interviewer:* No, he was with state police, I think.

*Interviewee:* Well, I never seen no state police up in there. I don't reckon they allow them up there. People have re. People have fights with the state police, you know? There wasn't too many at that time. They was on the other side of the hill mostly. Seemed like the news I got

that most of them was in Mingo County. I don't know whether that's right or not. Only state police was – he was on a bunch at that time, but I think a pretty fine bunch of people now, you know? They didn't take anybody in, you know, then. And they just started, you know?

And then eventually I \_\_\_\_\_ the night, about three of them went \_\_\_\_\_. And a bunch of them stationed down there died; \_\_\_\_\_ down the river about a mile before you come out of the \_\_\_\_\_ phase down there.

*Interviewer:* And then what happened? You were telling me about the three or four of them were out there.

*Interviewee:* Yeah. They tried to roll to the nights, you know, and see what they could find, you know? I was \_\_\_\_\_ rolling over there in a barn, a big barn. Three of them come in there one night after dark. It rained hard as ever I seen it rain and I got ready to come to the house. And I sat outside. I saw a feller out in the rain, I said, "Yeah, you've got to go." I said, "I'm going to the house." And I put them out in the rain; I don't know which way they went.  
[Laughs]

*Interviewer:* [Laughs]

*Interviewee:* They might've – they disguised themselves with different uniforms and stuff.

*Interviewer:* Yeah. Did you know any of the leaders of the march? Like Bill Blizzard, do you know him?

*Interviewee:* Oh yeah, I know Bill Blizzard.

*Interviewer:* You know, I was wondering, the story is that he was the leader in the march. Was he really the leader or was he more just like one of you?

*Interviewee:* Oh, he was the leader. We didn't see him – or I didn't, but he had contact all along, you know. People asking up and stuff for him. \_\_\_\_\_ I remember that. I never heard much said about that, but in a way I told anybody I know \_\_\_\_\_ before he was elected secretary and treasurer for District 17.

*Interviewer:* Can you tell me a little bit about him, what he seemed like to you as a person?

*Interviewee:* Oh, he was just a \_\_\_\_\_ man. Fred Mooney was, you know? Had more a temper than he can handle. Killed himself and wind up, you know. You know that, didn't you?

*Interviewer:* I didn't know about that. No, can you tell me about that? I didn't hear about that?

*Interviewee:* Didn't you?

*Interviewer:* No, I didn't.

*Interviewee:* Yep. But he killed himself.

*Interviewer:* What was his story?

*Interviewee:* Now I don't know whether I get it just right or not, the way I hear it he got mad at his wife and he killed her. And it backfired on him some way or another and it got out that he killed himself. I got a brother that lives over there in Loudoun, just straight in Loudoun Heights. And his brothers lives right there – Fred's brothers live right there by my brother, you know. And I was in there, talking to one of them, 'cause we hadn't talked about that, you know? But my brother lives on the other one.

*Interviewer:* You said that Fred's brother lives over there?

*Interviewee:* Mm-hmm.

*Interviewer:* He still living?

*Interviewee:* Yeah, he got two or three brothers lives around in there, in the Loudoun District.

*Interviewer:* I'm afraid I don't understand what you're saying. What district?

*Interviewee:* Well, I'll tell you, I don't know if it's a district. Loudoun.

*Interviewer:* Loudoun?

*Interviewee:* Yeah. Loudendale. Loudendale. It was right directly. You know where's it?

*Interviewer:* Where is that near? Do you know?

*Interviewee:* Go up Mason Holler there. And up on the banks of Creekside.

*Interviewer:* I still don't know where it is. Do you know what town it's near?

*Interviewee:* Huh?

*Interviewer:* Is it here in Boone County?

*Interviewee:* No, it's in Kanawha County. Close – the Charleston over there.  
They called it Charleston over there, where they lived even then.

*Interviewer:* Hmm. I wonder if I went and talked to him if he could tell me something about Fred.

*Interviewee:* Well, yeah, I think so.

*Interviewer:* Mm-hmm.

*[End of Audio]*